Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 27 Jan 2021 until 23:59 on Thursday 28 Jan 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 27 Jan 2021 at 03:23

Confidence: Low for cloud details on Wednesday. High for snow on Thursday. Dropping for detail on Friday and low for time of arrival of snow on Sunday.

Headline for Wednesday 27 Jan 2021: Mainly cloudy, but mainly dry. Strong westerly winds at first easing for a time, before becoming easterly and freshening for evening.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 27 Jan 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Dull	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation probability					
30%	20%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Forecast for Wednesday 27 Jan 2021

Weather: Overcast with hill fog and a little sporadic drizzle early morning, thereafter mainly dry with cloud perhaps lifting and break at times in the afternoon, but this is not certain, with some cloud clinging to the tops throughout.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance generally but there may be brief clearances in the afternoon.

Visibility: Away from cloud mainly good. Often widely very poor at height with extensive low cloud, bases down to 300-400m in early morning, lifting to mainly above 500-600m, a little higher possible in the afternoon. Some cloud always likely to cling to the highest ground.

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Forecast for Wednesday 27 Jan 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	27/31 W	21/24 W	14/17 W	7/9 SW	8/11 E	16/22 E	24/33 E
600	23/32 W	17/24 W	12/16 W	5/7 SW	9/12 E	18/27 SE	26/36 E
300	8/25 W	5/20 W	4/13 W	2/6 SW	4/9 E	7/16 SE	11/25 E
Valley	7/22 W	6/18 NW	5/12 W	2/4 NW	4/8 E	8/17 E	13/26 E

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-5	2/-4	1/-4	1/-2	1/-2	1/-4	-0/-8
600	4/-2	3/-2	3/-1	3/1	3/-1	2/-4	1/-6
300	4/1	4/2	5/3	5/4	3/2	4/1	3/-1
Valley	6/4	6/4	7/5	6/5	6/4	5/2	5/1
Freezing Level*	1100m	1100m	1100m	1100m	1100m	1000m	1100m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Nothing to add.

Forecast for Thursday 28 Jan 2021

Weather: Dry start to the early hours, then outbreaks of heavy snow will arrive before morning and last for much of the day. Some quite heavy falls are likely above 400m with drifting on the fells in the strong southeasterly winds though may turn to rain at lower levels. The snow easing later in evening and with freezing levels rising reverting to patchy drizzle, though these higher freezing levels are uncertain

Maximum wind: Southeast 35 gusts 45mph. Easing 20mph later.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance with extensive cloud 300-400m.

Visibility: Poor or very poor.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Zero Celsius rising to Plus 2 in evening.
At 800m: Minus 3 Celsius, rising Minus 1 in the evening, perhaps just above freezing.
Freezing level: 300m rising to 700m perhaps 900m in the evening.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 26 January 2021. Location: Helvellyn summit at 10:38 Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally. Here is today's report: A cloudy day with fresh snowfall down to Swirls car park (220m) during the morning which started to fall more heavily in the early afternoon. The higher fells were extremely challenging today with near white-out, and occasional full white-out conditions making navigation very difficult. The wind speeds recorded today are less than was experienced on the way down and are estimated to have been around 40mph at times. Major paths were almost impossible to follow over large areas and footprints that were made on the way up were entirely filled in on the return journey. Straying off route in these conditions is potentially dangerous, as large, unstable cornices (snow overhangs) are present and continuing to build around many north and east-facing corrie rims. These are a considerable hazard to walkers as they are generally found above steep, craggy ground and in close proximity to many of the paths, as well as the trig point on Helvellyn. Walking too close to, or onto a cornice could cause it to collapse, potentially taking a person with it. Goggles were essential today, as was a map and compass and proficiency in mountain navigation (specifically taking and walking on a bearing with almost no visibility but being aware of where the hazards are). Snow distribution is varied with the greatest accumulations on north through east-facing aspects where drifts up to 1 metre deep are not uncommon. South and west-facing slopes generally hold less snow, and high ground, exposed to the wind has been scoured exposing old hard refrozen snow (névé). New and drifted snow often lies over névé and ice, making even moderately angled ground serious to negotiate without microspikes or crampons. Unstable windslab is continuing to accumulate on many steep scarp slopes, in gullies, as well as along ridge flanks. Steep and exposed routes such as Striding and Swirral edge are both serious propositions at the moment and should only be attempted by those with sufficient winter mountaineering experience and the correct equipment. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), and mountain boots are essential for anyone venturing into the fells. Walking poles are also very useful. For those considering routes on steep and exposed terrain, an ice axe and crampons are also essential. Please be conservative with your plans and know your limits. Temperature: minus 2.3 C, Maximum wind speed 31.6 mph, Wind chill: minus 11.3 C, Average wind speed: 23.2 mph

Issued at: 03:23 on Wed 27 Jan 2021

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